



City Administrator's Report

July 2009

Dear Reader,

Each month, this report from the City Administrator's Office provides a brief summary and update of major activities, events, projects, and programs that impact the Santa Barbara community. Feel free to send me your comments and suggestions.

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Key Meetings

City Council Meetings

Tuesdays, July 14th, 21st, and 28th at 2 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers at 735 Anacapa Street.

Community Events

Concerts in the Parks

Every Thursday in July, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Chase Palm Park, enjoy great music during the Parks and Recreation Department's *Concerts in the Parks* program. For a complete concert schedule, visit: www.sbparksandrecreation.com.

Old Spanish Days Fiesta

From August 5th to 9th during various times and locations, celebrate the Santa Barbara heritage of American Indian, Mexican, Spanish, and early American settlers. For a schedule of *Old Spanish Days Fiesta* activities, visit: <http://www.oldspanishdays-fiesta.org/>

Flags on State Street

American Institute of Architects

July 6th to 17th

SEE (Surgical Eye Expeditions) International

July 17th to 27th

Alzheimer Association

July 27th to August 4th

City Administrator's Office

Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Adopted. On June 23rd, after months of deliberations, the City Council unanimously adopted a balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2010. It includes a total

operating budget of \$238 million and a capital budget totaling \$22 million. The General Fund operating budget is \$104 million, which provides funding for police, fire, parks, recreation, library, community development, and administrative services.

The City faced an estimated \$10.8 million deficit in the fiscal year, beginning July 1st, representing approximately 10% of the General Fund operating budget. The budget was balanced with department budget reductions, citywide labor measures, increased fees and charges, structural budget changes, and delays to capital improvements.

While most programs and services will continue, the public can anticipate some service changes. The public may notice delays in processing and longer wait times at public counters. In addition, all departments will reduce spending on services, supplies, and training.

To generate additional revenue, the City will pursue the collection of transient occupancy and business license taxes for vacation rentals; initiate a late payment fee for utility bills; and increase fees for parking citations, vehicle release, building permits, land development applications, dog license, and park and facility events hosted by commercial businesses.

Although the City Council has adopted a balanced budget, the future of the City's financial condition is uncertain due to the continuous decline of major tax revenues and unresolved state budget. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger recently declared a fiscal emergency due to the \$24.3 billion state budget impasse. Due to economic uncertainty, the City Council has agreed to revisit the adopted budget in the upcoming months to make modifications if necessary. For more information on the Fiscal Year 2010 budget and to view videos of budget presentations, visit: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

City Offices to Close on Employee Furlough Days. This fiscal year, the City is implementing a 104-hour furlough, or unpaid leave, for managers, supervisors, and general employees. This furlough will provide short-term savings to allow the City to close the budget deficit and restore employee positions that were previously scheduled for layoff. Administrative offices and non-emergency facilities will be closed to the public on specified dates. Police, fire, and other patrol and emergency service facilities will remain open. To view a list of the Fiscal Year 2010 office closures, visit: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

Inside Santa Barbara. *Inside Santa Barbara* is the City's news magazine show that covers significant issues, projects, and events. The July episode covers the Santa Barbara Front Country Trails, Jesusita Fire recovery, rail safety, the City's Fiscal Year 2010 budget and furlough program, water conservation programs, the Historic Landmarks Commission, and the Solstice Festival and Parade. *Inside Santa Barbara* airs on the following days and times on City TV Channel 18: Mondays at 8 and 8:30 p.m.; Tuesdays at 5 and 5:30 p.m.; Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 9 and 9:30 p.m.; and Sundays at 10 and 10:30 p.m. For more information on *Inside Santa Barbara*, call City TV at 564-5311 or visit: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

Administrative Services Department

Fire Chief Recruitment. The City is currently recruiting for the position of Fire Chief. This person will head the Fire Department, which includes 113 employees who are responsible for fire suppression, prevention, public education, wildland fire planning, and emergency services.

The preferred experience of an ideal candidate includes a minimum of five years of experience as a Battalion Chief or higher in a Fire Department that is comparable to the size of the City of Santa Barbara Fire Department. The deadline to apply for the Fire Chief position is Thursday, August 6, 2009. For more information on preferred experience and education, salary, and job description, visit: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

Airport Department

May Passenger Traffic Declines. Airline passenger traffic at the Santa Barbara Airport decreased in May 2009 compared to May 2008. The Airport served 63,620 passengers, a decrease of 13.6% when compared to last May's passenger traffic count. The highest average passenger loads were aboard the United flights to Denver (92.7%), Delta flights to Salt Lake City (86.1%) and US Airway flights to Phoenix (82.6%).

Community Development Department

Planning Commission Highlights. This month, the Planning Commission will hold only one meeting, which will be held on Thursday, July 23rd. At that meeting, the Commission will discuss *Plan Santa Barbara* and review projects at 6401 Hollister Avenue (Airport monitoring wells), 230 Lighthouse Road (Subdivision and Coastal Development Permit), and 226-232 Eucalyptus Hill Road (Continuation of an Appeal of a Staff Hearing Officer denial of a Lot Line Adjustment and Performance Standard Permit for additional dwelling units).

Community Development Plans for Economic Stimulus Funds. In February, President Barack Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The Recovery Act awards \$1 billion in Community Development Block Grant Recovery (CDBG-R) funds to cities, counties, and states. The City of Santa Barbara expects to receive \$289,274 in CDBG-R funds to be used for projects that emphasize job creation and economic benefit. The proposed projects include: roof replacement at the Franklin Center and other energy-efficient renovations, the Job Apprenticeship Program, and Aliso Street access ramps.

Finance Department

Proposal of New Trash and Recycling Rates for Businesses. On Tuesday, July 14th, the City Council will consider the implementation of new trash and recycling rates for businesses in the City. These rates would take effect on November 1st of this year. The rates will establish additional financial incentives for businesses to increase recycling and ultimately reduce the volume of trash sent to the Tajiguas Landfill. Over the last several months, the City's Environmental Services Division met with business groups, held public meetings, and sent out mailers to inform businesses of the newly proposed rates. If approved by City Council, official noticing of the rate changes will begin in late July through utility bill inserts. For more information on these proposed trash and recycling rates and how businesses can reduce their trash bills, visit: www.SBRecycles.org.

Fire Department

Be Prepared for a Wildfire. In the past year, three wildfires burned in Santa Barbara. Residents can do their part to allow firefighters the best chance to defend their homes in the event of a wildfire. The Voluntary Defensible Space Inspection Program is available to residents in the Wildland Fire Suppression Benefit Assessment District area. For more information on this free program, call Fire Services Specialist Amber Anderson 564-5737.

Library Department

Changes in Library Hours, Fees. With the new fiscal year, the Library has made some budget reductions through changes in hours of operation in the Santa Barbara Public Library system. As of Monday, July 13th, the Carpinteria, Montecito, and Solvang Libraries will be closed on Mondays. Effective this month, the Goleta Library will open at 2 p.m. on Mondays instead of 10 a.m. and the Bookmobile will no longer be in operation. In addition, the City Council has approved some fees and policy changes that are now in effect. For a complete list of fees, fines, and policies regarding library materials and services, visit: www.sbplibrary.org.

New Integrated Library System Installed. On May 28th, the Santa Barbara Public Library System installed a new automation system to manage its circulation records and catalogues. Through this system, library patrons can now conduct searches through improved searching capabilities. Patrons can also use the new integrated system to request “holds” on specific items, as well as temporarily suspend and reactivate holds.

Summer Reading Surge. Children are still signing up for the Summer Reading Program at all six branches of the Library System. The Summer Reading Program encourages children to participate in educational entertainment and includes a magician, ventriloquist, juggler, puppet show, and storytellers. Teen volunteers assisting with the Summer Reading program have also been signing up in record numbers. To find out how to participate or volunteer for the program, visit the main desk at any branch of the Santa Barbara Public Library System in Santa Barbara, Montecito, Carpinteria, Santa Ynez, Goleta, or Los Olivos.

Parks and Recreation

Parks and Recreation Service Reductions. Due to budget savings, public recreation opportunities will be scaled back with fewer Concerts in the Park events this summer, cancellation of the Senior Tour Program, and closure of the Lower Westside Center. In addition, the 1235 Teen Center will be closed on Saturdays and the Oak Park Wading Pool will remain closed.

Friends of Los Baños to the Rescue. Due to the Department's \$1.5 million in mandated budget adjustments, there were plans to close down Sunday lap swimming at Los Baños Pool and recreational swimming at Ortega Pool for this fiscal year. The *Friends of Los Baños* came to the rescue and agreed to raise \$9,100 in funds to reinstate these two community swimming programs. To date, *Friends of Los Baños* have raised almost \$4,000 towards both swim programs. Also, a silent donor is willing to match each dollar up to \$4,000 for the Ortega Pool.

Throughout its long partnership with the City, *Friends of Los Baños* have made it possible to make facility repairs and purchase expensive equipment.

Concerts in the Parks. This month, *Concerts in the Parks* program kicked off another summer of free concerts in Chase Palm Park. Every Thursday in July from 6 to 8:30 p.m., people can sing and dance to variety of live music. Last year, these concerts attracted over 40,000 people. For a list of bands and a complete concert schedule, call 897-1982 or visit: www.sbparksandrecreation.com.

Children's Fiesta Parade. *Old Spanish Days Fiesta* is an annual event that celebrates Santa Barbara's heritage of American Indian, Spanish, Mexican, and early American settlers. The City needs volunteers for one of the celebrations called "El Desfile de los Niños," or Children's Fiesta Parade. This event will be held on Saturday, August 8th at 10 a.m. and is expected to bring 2,500 children in festive costumes to State Street. The parade route begins at State and Victoria Streets and ends at State and Ortega Streets. For more information about volunteering or applying to participate in the parade, contact Anita Ho at 897-1982.

Golf Club Construction is a Hole in One. The City of Santa Barbara is about to begin a safety improvement project at the Santa Barbara Golf Club. The project involves relocating the 5th and 11th greens and installing a continuous cart path around the course. These changes will help keep errant golf shots away from other players and private property. New cart paths will increase safety and access during the rainy season. Golfers can still enjoy all 18 holes during the four months of construction. However, temporary tees or greens may be set up to accommodate construction activities and to increase course safety. An alternate hole may be opened between holes #3 and #4 to compensate for a temporary hole closure elsewhere on the course. Golfers should expect short delays, noise, large machinery, and construction workers on the course. Since the golf course is an Enterprise Fund Division of the Parks and Recreation Department, ongoing capital improvements are funded by golf revenues. For updated information on this project, visit the Pro Shop or visit: www.sbgolf.com.

Police Department

Fourth of July Statistics. Thousands of people flocked to West Beach on the Fourth of July to enjoy the fireworks display. This year, there were more officers dedicated to gang suppression teams and DUI patrols. According to the officers assigned to patrol Fourth of July activities, there were 54 traffic citations, 79 parking citations, 50 municipal code citations, and 12 vehicles were towed. In addition, there were six felony arrests and 12 misdemeanor arrests. Compared to last year, more citations were issued but fewer arrests were made. Overall, there were no major incidents during the holiday.

Robber Caught Red-Handed. On June 14th at 9:37 p.m., officers responded to a possible burglary in progress at the *Polar Bear* children's clothing store at 726 Anacapa Street. A security guard across the street at the *Santa Barbara News-Press* called 9-1-1 after he noticed broken glass to the store window and a man entering the business. When officers arrived, they saw the man searching the cash register. The suspect saw the officers and began to run back and forth inside the store. Officers surrounded the building and made forced entry to the rear door. The suspect ran out the front door and into the arms of an officer, who took the suspect down and arrested him. The suspect, 53-year old Santa Barbara resident Mark Castello, was

arrested with cash from the business in his possession. Castello was booked at the Santa Barbara County Jail for commercial burglary.

Proactive Police Patrols. In June, the Santa Barbara Police Department conducted targeted patrols for specific unlawful activities:

On June 17th, officers in plain clothes were assigned to the downtown corridor to target unlawful drug activity. They interrupted a drug deal at 300 Chapala Street and arrested the dealer and two customers. Officers recovered 26 grams of methamphetamine, large amounts of cash, and drug paraphernalia. In addition, officers arrested two men who were loitering with the intent to solicit prostitution in downtown.

On the night of June 23rd, officers were assigned to target unlawful activity in the Eastside Neighborhood, near the Franklin Center and Pennywise Market. The focus of the patrol was to be highly visible in order to discourage loitering and other narcotic or gang issues. This four-hour patrol resulted in 16 traffic citations, one unlicensed driver tow, one misdemeanor arrest, two K-9 drug searches, one health and safety code citation, and one municipal code citation.

On June 29th, officers conducted enforcement along the beachfront for illegal campers. During this patrol, 13 people were cited for municipal code violations and three people were arrested for outstanding warrants.

Public Works Department

It's Smart to Save. The City's Water Conservation Program has a new rebate program to encourage water-wise landscaping. The City has teamed with the Goleta Water District to provide the *Smart Landscape Rebate* program, which offers cash back toward the cost of installing efficient irrigation equipment and water-wise plants. Up to 50% of the cost may qualify for a one-time rebate of up to \$1,000. The program covers approved irrigation equipment, water-wise plants, mulch, and smart irrigation controllers. A Water Resources Specialist makes a pre-qualification visit to the site and owners of projects that qualify receive a list of items eligible for the rebate. For more information on the *Smart Landscape Rebate* program, visit: www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/water.

Waterfront Department

Marina Laundromat Renovation. The Waterfront's laundromat was in desperate need of repair after years of neglect by the previous operator. Located near Marina 4, the laundromat serves the entire boating public. The facility was gutted, walls were painted, and new plumbing, electrical windows, and a new floor were installed. The security system has been upgraded to ensure use by harbor users only. Webb Inc., one of the largest laundromat operators in California, was awarded a lease to operate the facility with six new Energy Star washers and dryers. Energy efficient on-demand water heaters are augmented by solar thermal panels, which should greatly reduce the use of natural gas in this heavily used facility.